

Standard 8-7: The student will demonstrate an understanding of South Carolina's economic revitalization during World War II and the latter twentieth century.

8-7.1 Summarize the significant aspects of the economic growth experienced by South Carolina during and following World War II, including the contributions of Governor Strom Thurmond in promoting economic growth; the creation of the State Development Board and the technical education system; the benefits of good road systems, a sea port, and the Savannah River site; and the scarcity of labor unions. (H, E, G, P)

Taxonomy Level: B 2 Understand / Conceptual Knowledge

Previous/future knowledge:

In 5th grade students summarized the impact of cultural developments in the United States following World War II, including the significance of pop culture and mass media and the population shifts to the suburbs (5-5.1). Students also summarized changes in the United States economy following World War II, including the expanding job market and service industry, consumerism, and new technology (5-5.2).

In United States history, students will explain the lasting impact of the scientific and technological developments in America after World War II, including new systems for scientific research, medical advances, improvements in agricultural technology, and resultant changes in the standard of living and demographic patterns (USHC-8.5). Students will also explain the causes and effects of social and cultural changes in postwar America, including educational programs, expanding suburbanization, the emergence of the consumer culture, the secularization of society and the reemergence of religious conservatism, and the roles of women in American society (USHC-9.1).

It is essential for students to know

During World War II, South Carolina experienced significant economic growth. The war effort ended the Great Depression as South Carolinians enjoyed full employment. Many South Carolinians, white and African American, men and women, joined the armed forces. This depleted the work force and left farms short handed. Others left the farms for jobs in mills and industries. The expansion of military bases to meet training needs at Fort Jackson, Parris Island, the naval base at Charleston and the new air base at Columbia stimulated the local economy. Segregation and discrimination limited the opportunities of African Americans in South Carolina. President Roosevelt's executive order offered some jobs in wartime industries to African Americans. African Americans also moved off South Carolina farms in search of better economic and social opportunities in the cities of the North and West.

Once the war ended, economic prosperity continued in South Carolina as it did throughout the country. Demand for goods unavailable in wartime and the ability to pay for them because of wartime savings led to increased consumer spending. Returning veterans used the GI Bill benefits to get an education or start new businesses, boosting the South Carolina economy in the process.

In 1946, **J. Strom Thurmond** ran for governor against the political establishment and won. With his encouragement, the legislature passed a series of reform bills that helped to support economic growth. These included the expansion and modernization of the port facilities at Charleston. By the 1950s, Charleston was one of the leading seaports in the United States. Charleston continued to attract shipping as it developed container facilities. Thurmond also supported education reform that would supply a better educated work force. The school year was extended to 9 months and the 12th grade added to high schools. The South Carolina Trade School was also established and evolved into a system of technical colleges. The South Carolina Budget and Control Board was established to regulate the state's finances. Between

1946 and 1950 many miles of highways and rural roads were paved which improved access to markets for farmers and manufacturers. The poll tax was also repealed and divorce was legalized in South Carolina.

Later governors continued to support economic development. The **State Development Board** was created in 1954 to attract industries to South Carolina. The Board recruits businesses from other parts of the country and from Europe that are attracted to the state because of tax breaks, low wages and the state government's opposition to labor unions. The state legislature passed a bill in the late 1940s that established South Carolina as a 'right to work' state. Right to work laws supported (and continue to support) the interests of management over the workers by outlawing the closed shop. The law allowed employees to work in a factory without joining the recognized and elected union. This undermined the unity and therefore the effectiveness of the union at the bargaining table and contributed to the scarcity of labor unions in South Carolina. The technical education system also attracted economic investment in South Carolina as it supplied an educated and trained work force to meet industry specifications.

Resistance to the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v Board of Education* and the protests that followed were captured in newspaper photographs and television footage. This hurt South Carolina's image and its ability to attract economic investment. White business leaders, motivated by economics, supported accommodation, which led to greater economic, political and social opportunities for African-American workers (8-7.4).

An extensive system of roads and highways built by both the federal government and the state of South Carolina crisscross the state and provide transportation for goods to consumers throughout the country. Airports were built in major cities in South Carolina and have contributed to economic development. The State Ports Authority continues to oversee the development of the ports of Charleston, Georgetown and Port Royal and has helped to attract foreign companies to the state and promote international trade.

It is not essential for students to know

It is not essential for students to remember specific events during World War II that are connected to South Carolina such as Doolittle's Raiders.

Students do not need to know the names or accomplishments of other specific governors who contributed to the economic development of South Carolina. Students do not need to know specific companies that have been attracted to South Carolina such as Michelin or BMW. They do not need to know that there was some resistance to these companies from local businesses that feared that the higher wages they promised to pay would adversely affect their own ability to attract workers.

Assessment guidelines:

Appropriate assessments would require students to **summarize** the economic growth in South Carolina during and after World War II. Students should be able to **explain** the role of Governor Strom Thurmond in promoting this growth. They should also be able to **explain** the role of the State Development Board, the technical college system and the scarcity of unions in South Carolina in attracting economic investment. Students should be able to **summarize** the impact of good roads and a modern seaport on economic development. They should also be able to **interpret maps** of highway systems and **graphs** showing economic activity.